

Agricultural Department

EDITED BY VICTOR J. GARVIN

The articles appearing in this Department were written by Members of the Live-Stock and Dairying Courses of Hendersonville and Flat Rock High Schools, who are themselves practical farmers

The agricultural department of this paper was started in hope that some of the information given through it might be of some practical value to farmers and livestock men throughout Western North Carolina. There is being held at both the Hendersonville and Flat Rock High Schools a course in Live-Stock and Dairying, under the instruction of the writer. The members of these classes are many of the best young farmers and dairymen of our county, most of them sons of our progressive farmers. These boys have had the practical experience on their own farms and now wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to find out what the best farmers in other parts of the country are doing. These courses are being conducted under federal aid and are open to all boys in Henderson county who have reached the age of 14 years or older. New students may enter at any time, but the sooner the better.

The articles which will appear each week in these columns are written by members of these two classes and are looked over or edited by the writer. As these boys progress farther in their work the articles will have a more direct application to local conditions. If you wish to keep in touch with the latest and best methods and practices along agricultural and live-stock lines read these columns each week in The News.

During the past week the members of these classes have been studying about dairy cows and the feeding of dairy cows. The question of silos and silage arose and it was thought advisable to put the substance of the classroom discussion into print. Some of the boys had had more or less experience with silos and the feeding of silage, others possessed but little knowledge concerning it.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago there were indeed few farmers who knew what a silo was. Probably not one in a hundred had ever seen a silo or fed silage to their stock. In this day and age silos are nearly as common as barns. Throughout the best and most highly developed farming and dairying sections of our country there is not one farmer in one hundred who would be without one. The writer has heard many say that they would want to quit farming and sell off their stock if they had to do without a silo and silage again. In this day and age even those farmers who have never fed silage and even those who have never seen a silo know that a silo is an air tight structure used for the preservation of green coarse fodder in a succulent condition. And they know that the silage is the feed taken out of the silo after it has gone through a fermenting process.

Louis F. Swift, head of the Swift Packing Company, says regarding the silo:

"Probably the silo is one of the most important elements that has been introduced into the stock feeding situation in late years. Its value was first recognized in feeding for milk production; but hundreds of tests conducted by state and federal experiment stations and by individuals operating on a commercial scale, have established the fact that ensilage is the key to profitable and economic feeding for beef. Not only does it contribute immensely to the health of cattle but, in combination with concentrates, it results in astonishing gains of weight at greatly reduced cost. The silo also has a most direct and important relation to the fertility of the farm. Then, too, it often operates as an insurance against loss by reason of a short corn season. There is no sign upon the skyline of American meat production and American agriculture in general more important than the silo."

Regarding the use of silage in the growing and fattening of beef cattle, H. M. Cottrell, formerly agricultural commissioner of the Rock Island Railroad, and at present agriculturist for the city of Memphis, Tenn., says as follows:

"An adequate supply of beef for the United States can be secured only by the stockmen throughout the country adopting silage as the basis of their feed rations both while growing cattle and while fattening them. The cost of making beef with grain and dry forage is greater than the majority of the consumers can pay for it and farmers find it more profitable to sell grain than to feed it. Silage saves a large proportion of grain needed in fattening animals. It saves the need of any grain while cattle are growing. Silage fed cattle gain faster than those dry fed. They finish quicker and the meat is better marbled. Cattle fed silage while fattening require 30 per cent less grain to make each 100 pounds of increase in weight than do cattle fed under the best methods of dry feeding."

Many farmers say, "Well, I might build a silo if it didn't cost so much." They have a mistaken idea that it should be an expensive one. As a matter of fact any man who is at all handy with a hammer and saw can build a home-made silo in a short time and without much difficulty. Of course it will not have as long a life as some of the better ones, but it will enable him to profit through the use of it and within a few years will make enough money for him so that he will be able to build a good one. Any farmer who wishes to know how to construct a cheap type of silo with which to begin his silo experience

may obtain it either by addressing the writer or any member of these agricultural classes.

VICTOR J. GARVIN.

FEEDING SILAGE TO SWINE

(By Hixie Peace)

It would seem that it would be a profitable investment for any one who raises hogs on an extensive scale to build a small silo and feed silage as a part of the ration. Some farmers and swine raisers have tried feeding silage to their hogs with but little success. On the other hand a great number of our best hog raisers have had good success with it. Many feed it regularly. It is very possible that it is the difference in the quality of the silage which causes the difference in opinion as to its value as a feed for hogs. It is possible to have poor silage as well as poor hay or grain.

It is certain that the feeding of silage helps to keep up the flow of milk in the sows just as would a good clover pasture. When silage forms at least a part of the ration of sows we find that when farrowed the pigs are more robust and take to nursing sooner than when the sows are fed on dry feed alone. And it is advisable to start them under the best possible conditions. At the start care should be taken to feed not more than a pound at a time mixed with corn meal, shorts or some other concentrated feed. The food of hogs should be made up of easily digested grain feed. Rather bulky feed like silage can only be fed to advantage in small quantities, not to exceed three or four pounds per head per day.

Accordingly, silage if fed carefully, is advised especially for brood sows, since it will aid in keeping their system in good condition and will keep up the flow of milk.

FEEDING SILAGE TO DAIRY COWS

(By William N. Slatery)

It is very evident to most of us that we had rather eat a nice juicy apple than a piece of dried one. Then why should not the same thing be true with animals? Is it unreasonable to suppose that they prefer fresh or palatable food instead of simply dry fodder?

Pasture grasses are the ideal food for dairy cows as well as other livestock, but these grasses are not available more than a few months in the year. The same thing holds true with all soiling crops and tame grasses as well. When made into hay the grasses and other green crops not only become less palatable but lose some of their food value because of the loss of leaves and other tender parts as well as because of fermentation which takes place while the plants are drying out.

There is only one known method of keeping food for cows and other livestock green and palatable and at the same time preserve the entire feeding value. This is by means of the silo. The silo enables us to preserve a larger quantity of the food materials of the original fodder for the feeding of farm animals than is possible by any other system of preservation now known.

A great many silos are to be found in those sections of the country where extensive dairying is carried on. Those who have used a silo in the feeding of their dairy herd say that they would never again be without one. Silage exerts a very good influence on the winter secretion of milk, keeping up the milk production where otherwise it might fall down considerably. Most people have observed that during the winter season when cows are usually fed on dry roughness with some grain that even at the best they drop in their milk. Then when put out on spring pastures their milk suddenly increases. This is due not alone to the probably greater feeding value in the green pasture but likewise to the greater palatability. So it would seem that even though it cost more to put our feed up as silage it would pay, if we wish to keep up the milk production of our cows, and certainly it pays to do this latter during the winter when milk is worth more than in the summer time. But when it comes right down to the actual figures silage costs less, considering the actual feeding value in it, than do most other forms of feed.

As the result of many experiments throughout the county it has been shown that the loss in the dry curing of fodder, especially corn fodder, even under the best conditions and where it is put under a shed away from the effects of the weather, amounts to from one third to one half of the weight. But this loss in weight does not consist simply in the loss of moisture, and if that were all it could be supplied again when fed. But the loss in weight is caused also by the loss or waste of food materials contained in the fodder from fermentation or the action of what is known as enzymes. This wasted food cannot be replaced. It is lost and means wasted dollars to the feeder.

It is thought by many people that the acid contained in the silage will cause the milk of cows to sour more rapidly than will the milk of cows fed on dry feed, but this is not true. Several experiments have been conducted in which the milk from silage fed cows and that from dry fed cows was taken and put side by side in pails in a room with a temperature of

say 40 degrees and it was noticed that both began to sour at about the same time which went to disprove the theory that the acid in silage had any effect upon the souring of the milk. Again, it was thought for awhile by some persons that the milk of silage fed cows did not have as good flavor as that from dry fed cows. This is not true. Just to prove that it was not, samples of milk from silage fed and dry fed cows were given to 372 people. Sixty percent of them preferred the milk of cows fed on silage, 29 percent preferred that of the dry fed cows and 11 percent of them could see no difference and had no choice.

In closing I would advise all dairymen who wish to keep up the flow of their cows during the winter to build a silo if possible. A small silo does not cost much and may mean the difference between profit and loss.

MISS OTHELLO JOHNSON MARRIED AT LANFORD, S. C.

The following clipping taken from the Spartanburg Herald will be of interest to friends of Miss Othello Johnson, who remember her as a frequent visitor to her sisters in the city, Mrs. Frank Randall and Mrs. J. F. Byers:

A marriage of much social interest took place on Wednesday afternoon, November 12th, at 3 o'clock, when Miss Othello Johnson became the bride of John Payne from Greenwood, S. C. The ceremony was performed in the bride's home by Rev. Mr. Williams.

The entire decorations were in keeping with the autumn season. The reception hall was banked with stately ferns, white and yellow chrysanthemums. In the parlor the same color note of white and yellow prevailed, while the dining room presented an entirely different scene, an artistic arrangement of pink Kilmarney roses.

Mrs. C. D. Cox, a sister of the bride, played Mendelssohn's wedding march softly, preceding and throughout the ceremony.

The bride dressed in her traveling suit of blue silver-tone velour, with accessories that harmonized, entered the parlor with the groom. She carried a bouquet of bride's roses and ferns, tied with white marine. Underneath an arch made of ferns, white and yellow chrysanthemums, they were met by the bride's pastor.

A bountiful dinner was served to twenty-five guests. Among the guests were: Mesdames J. F. Byers and Frank Randall, sisters of the bride, and their husbands, and little Frank Byers, from Hendersonville.

Mr. Payne is a prominent business man from Greenwood.

PLEASANT BIRTHDAY PARTY

Mrs. K. G. Morris entertained Friday evening with a theatre party in honor of her daughter, Miss Irma's, sixteenth birthday. After returning from the theatre, refreshments were served to the following guests: Misses Virginia Walker, Nelle Morris, Marjorie Carson, and Emmy Goodlow Gregory; Messrs Roy Williams, Ralph Russ, Harris Goodman and Jim Hinds.

The Climax News Stand now owns the Pee Wee News Stand business. Visit the Climax for your reading matter.

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is a common ailment that people are too prone to neglect until the danger line is reached. Don't YOU do it! Get a 35c bottle of DR. THACHER'S DIARRHOEA MIXTURE from your drug store and have it ready at the first symptom of Diarrhoea, Flux, Cholera, Infantum etc. In use half a century. Pleasant and harmless. THACHER MEDICINE CO., Chattanooga, Tenn., U. S. A.

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ENLISTS IN NAVY

Jesse W. Bell, of Flat Rock, was accepted yesterday for enlistment in the navy at the local navy recruiting station and was sent to Raleigh to be sworn in. He enlisted for two years as apprentice seaman and selected the training station at San Francisco as the one at which he wished to receive his training.—From Asheville Citizen.

YALE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

For not having missed a day in October:
1st grade, Jenevieve Sizemore; 3rd grade, Dora Collins. 4th grade, Franklin Cantrel, Dennis Cairnes. 5th grade, Dallas Suttles. 7th grade, Flave Dalton.
For Scholarship: 1st grade, Gladys Blythe, Luther Suttles. 3rd grade, Dora Collins. 7th grade, Robert Suttles. 8th grade, Madge Case, Eula McCullough.

VISITS 15 COUNTIES

V. E. Grant has resumed his work as city mail carrier after a leave of absence of several days—the first vacation he has enjoyed during the 12 years of his service as government employe.

Mr. Grant, who is district manager of the Woodmen of the World and junior past head consul of the state, traveled in the latter capacity in the 15 counties of this district during his leave of absence.

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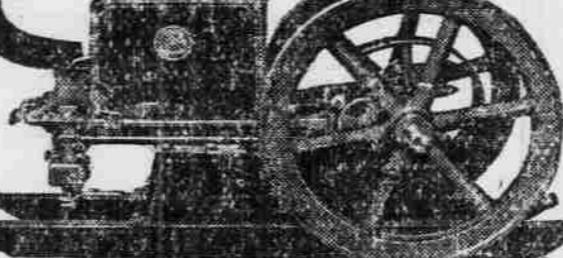
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CALL FOR MEETING OF HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

The Hendersonville Hospital Association will have its annual meeting at the home of Mrs. O. V. F. Blythe on Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. All members are urged to attend.

Mrs. GARREN ENTERTAINS

Mrs. S. M. Garren entertained Saturday evening in honor of her brother, Mr. Beatty, who recently returned from France. Music and games were enjoyed after which refreshments were served to about thirty guests.

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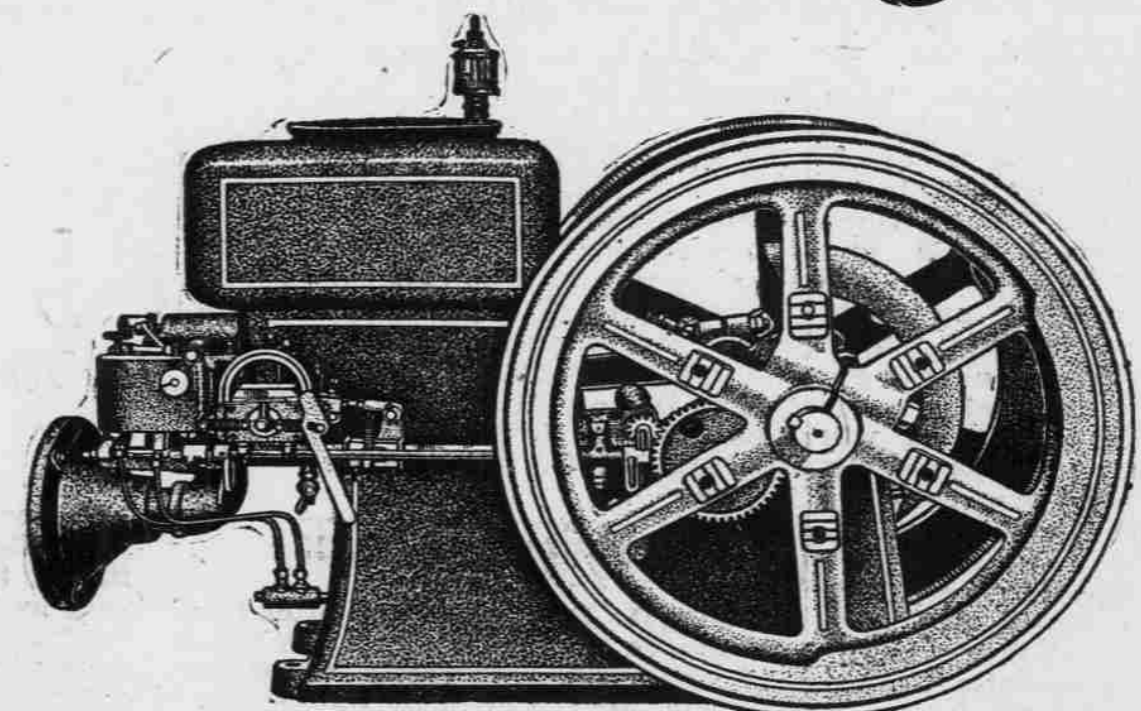
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THE NEWS